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[REDACTED] 25X1

At first glance, the governing coalition's strong performance in last week's administrative elections is likely to encourage the five parties of the coalition to coalesce behind a popular moderate candidate like Forlani. Rumors of the deal with Craxi reportedly have angered some members of both parties' parliamentary delegations, however, and it is not clear that Forlani will be able to rally enough support from within the governing coalition. [REDACTED] 25X1

For their part, the Communists have stated publicly that they intend to support Pertini. We suspect that they will put forward Communist Lower Chamber President Nilde Iotti as a stalking horse, however, if Pertini does not run. Communist leaders have told US officials that they oppose Forlani, practically guaranteeing that he can not be elected during the first three rounds. If the governing coalition is divided over Forlani, the Communists' numerical strength among the electors would enable them to exert a strong influence on the final selection. [REDACTED] 25X1

Several other prominent personalities are in the running and should Forlani falter, any of the following could emerge as a compromise candidate: Leopoldo Elia, a former Christian Democratic President of the Constitutional Court, Tina Anselmi, a former Christian Democratic President of the Senate; Oscar Scalfaro, Christian Democratic Minister of the Interior; and Giovanni Spadolini, Republican Minister of Defense. [REDACTED] 25X1

Several long-time aspirants for the office, including Christian Democrats such as former Senate President Fanfani and Foreign Minister Andreotti, may throw their hats in the ring. But some, like Andreotti, are tainted by scandal and others, such as Fanfani, have lost ground in their parties in recent years. [REDACTED] 25X1

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